

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

1-4. (canceled)

5. (new) A maintenance scheduling apparatus for making up maintenance schedules for a plurality of vehicles, comprising:

detection means for detecting vehicle information including at least one of operating situations and vehicular states of the plurality of vehicles, the detection means detecting respective present positions and at least one of consumption and residual quantities of fuel of the plurality of vehicles,

position storage means for storing positional information of maintenance locations where maintenance for the vehicles is done, and

scheduling means for making up maintenance schedules for the plurality of vehicles and determining whether respective vehicles of the plurality of vehicles have sufficient fuel for travel to respective maintenance locations based on the detected vehicle information, the positional information of the maintenance locations stored in the position storage means, the detected present positions, and the at least one of detected consumption and residual quantities of fuel of the respective vehicles, where the maintenance schedules prevent more vehicles than a predetermined number of vehicles from being suspended in operation at the same time.

- 2 -

U.S. serial No. 10/725,507  
Atty. Case No. VX032578US

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented)      The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of vehicles includes a first vehicle and a second vehicle, and the scheduling means makes up a maintenance schedule for the second vehicle on the basis of at least one of the following (1) and (2):

(1)    at least one of the operating situation and a vehicular state of the first vehicle, and

(2)    respective maintenance schedules of the first vehicle determined previously on the basis of (1) and at least one of an operating situation and a vehicular state of the second vehicle.

8. (previously presented)      The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein the first vehicle is included in a first group of vehicles, and the scheduling means makes up a maintenance schedule for the second vehicle on the basis of at least one of the following (1) and (2):

(1)    at least one of the operating situation and a vehicular state of the first group of vehicles, and

- 3 -

U.S. serial No. 10/725,507  
Atty. Case No. VX032578US

(2) respective maintenance schedules of the first group of vehicles determined previously on the basis of (1) and at least one of an operating situation and a vehicular state of the second vehicle.

9. (currently amended) The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

production storage means for storing production information representative of a relationship between operating information with respect to operation of said at least one of the plurality of vehicles and production, and production planning information for said at least one of the plurality of vehicles, and

wherein the scheduling means makes up the maintenance schedules based on the production information and the production planning information stored in the production storage means in addition to the detected vehicle information.

10. (currently amended) A maintenance scheduling apparatus for making up maintenance schedules for a plurality of vehicles, comprising:

detection means for detecting vehicle information including at least one of operating situations and vehicular states of the plurality of vehicles, the detection means detecting respective present positions and at least one of

- 4 -

U.S. serial No. 10/725,507  
Atty. Case No. VX032578US

consumption and residual quantities of fuel of the plurality of vehicles,

position storage means for storing positional information of maintenance locations where maintenance for the vehicles is done, and

scheduling means for making up maintenance schedules for the plurality of vehicles and determining whether respective vehicles of the plurality of vehicles have sufficient fuel for travel to respective maintenance locations based on the detected vehicle information, the positional information of the maintenance locations stored in the position storage means, the detected present positions, and the at least one of detected consumption and residual quantities of fuel of the respective vehicles, where the maintenance schedules maintains a predetermined number of vehicles in operation at the same time.

11. (previously presented) The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the vehicle information includes target running control information.

12. (previously presented) The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the vehicle information includes target running control information.

13. (previously presented) The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the detection means detects at least one of an operation period of time, running distance from a first point of time to a second point of time, and a weight of a load.

14. (previously presented) The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the detection means detects at least one of an operation period of time, running distance from a first point of time to a second point of time, and a weight of a load.

15. (previously presented) The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the detection means detects at least one of vehicle fuel consumption rate information and oil station information.

16. (previously presented) The maintenance scheduling apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the detection means detects at least one of vehicle fuel consumption rate information and oil station information.

- 6 -

U.S. serial No. 10/725,507  
Atty. Case No. VX032578US